



CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS DEPARTMENT OF

PUBLIC SAFETY

N E W S L E T T E R

VOLUME 3
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MAR 2015

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In the last newsletter, I discussed the new data driven approach to government that we have embraced. We gather data to help deal with the systemic issues in a more effective and efficient manner, to restore public trust and confidence, and ultimately enhance the quality of life of all the residents of our great city.

One of many components of this effort is re-entry -- the process tied to those returning to everyday life after incarceration. The Director of the Mayor's Office of Re-Entry, Chris Reeder, is quick to point out that approximately 8,000 individuals return to Marion County every year after being released from prison. In this city, we simply don't have the services available to handle the demand. This is why we are working with non-profits, faith based institutes, and the state correctional system to

find ways to help restore individuals to a productive life.

I will admit that some have questioned why we would exert such an effort. Data tells us that the recidivism rate is high and 92 percent of our homicide suspects and 81 percent of our homicide victims have criminal pasts. Although these are compelling reasons for the city and state to respond, DPS leadership believes that, regardless of someone's past, every life is important, valuable, and worthy of another chance. Just as we utilize Narcan to save those who use heroin, we will value all life.

Let me be clear: the Department of Public Safety will value all life, without prejudice.

***"Let me be clear:
the Department of
Public Safety will
value all life, without
prejudice."***

— Director Troy Riggs

Have a question, suggestion or comment to share with Director Riggs or the department? Please e-mail it to us at:

dps@indy.gov



Director Riggs' March message, continued

Much attention has been turned to the criminal justice system and many, including our leadership, are calling for tougher punishments for those who use a weapon while committing a violent act. Yes, this is important, but equally as important is getting help to inmates on the first day they are incarcerated.

Doesn't it make sense that those imprisoned should receive help the first day in prison, instead of the first day out?

The next time you drive downtown on Meridian Street, please take time to read the inscription on the War Memorial, which reads: "To Promote Order and Justice." This was the noble cause of those who laid down their lives for Indiana and our nation. This mantra also describes what each member of the DPS family does day in and day out — "promote order and justice" for those in Indianapolis.

Unfortunately, many of us have forgotten the true meaning of justice. Justice should never be relegated to just punishment. Punishment without hope of restoring oneself leads to further despair and unproductive lives. Justice, in its original sense, is both punitive and restorative. So, as we work hard to hold those accountable for their criminal actions, we need to be just as determined to help rehabilitate and restore those willing to do so. Obviously, to do this effectively, our community has to be willing to get involved, advocate, and hold those who have been punished accountable for future actions. Government cannot do this alone. It is going to take the help of many -- non-profits, faith-based groups, and individuals willing to invest time and effort.

Arrests and conviction (punitive) are short term solutions. Helping a re-entrant gain an education and/or employment (restorative) can break a cycle of hopelessness, restore families, and lead to a productive life.

If you are interested in giving of your time, talent and ideas, please feel free to reach out to Director Reeder at brian.reeder@indy.gov. There are at least 8,000 human beings that will need our help this year.

God Bless and stay safe // Troy

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Focus area work progressing, promising

LISC working with DPS to focus on neighborhood engagement and planning

Since launching the focus area initiative in late 2014, Department of Public Safety (DPS) Director Troy Riggs has been steadfast in his call for engaged citizens and neighborhoods to ensure long-term sustainable success for the effort.

One Indianapolis organization that focuses on creating and driving neighborhood engagement is the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC).

The purpose of citizen-led neighborhood “quality of life” plans is to transform neighborhoods and spur revitalization that combats many of Indianapolis’ current challenges, including population loss to neighboring counties, high unemployment and poverty rates in certain areas, low graduation rates, and the fear and incidence of crime.

“Citizen-led quality of life plans can be a key public safety tool to transform Marion County neighborhoods into dynamic centers of culture, commerce and community,” said LISC program officer Aaron Laramore. “They enable philanthropic, civic and private partners to engage with neighborhoods to make significant social and capital investments that enhance quality of life and spur private investment. Safety is fundamental to these goals.”

Building communities that are walkable, attractive and culturally diverse helps attract and retain residents of all ages and socioeconomic status and reverses negative trends. Since 2006, active quality of life plans have helped spur \$458 million of investment in Indianapolis neighborhoods.

“There isn’t one solution nor is there one individual or group that can solve all we face in our city and in this nation,” said Riggs. “It takes many stakeholders who are all willing to bring their resources and expertise to the discussion and take actionable steps to help us make positive changes to our community. LISC’s interaction at the neighborhood level is important work and will help us get where we need to go.”



Peace Learning Center working to improve conflict resolution skills in DPS focus areas

Found within the data that led the Department of Public Safety to its six focus areas is ample proof of the need for better conflict resolution skills among youth in those areas.

According to a review of data from 2013 and 2014, school expulsions related to battery or fighting in the six focus areas ran as high as 40 percent while expulsions related to defiance reached as high as 25 percent. Peace Learning Center, which has been delivering community programming in Indianapolis since 1997, has developed a new initiative called “One Indy” and is hoping to apply the new program to the DPS focus areas.

The One Indy initiative is built around three primary goals: 1) foster improved police/public safety and community relationships; 2) increase opportunities for parents, youth and community to learn conflict resolution skills, and; 3) enhance collaboration between schools, parks, community centers and faith-based institutions.

“Personal safety is the top priority for Indianapolis residents, and violence erodes our sense of security,” said Peace Learning Center Executive Director and Co-Founder Tim Nation. “Crime prevention starts with reducing violence. One Indy will create opportunities in the six focus areas for parents, youth and community to learn conflict resolution skills while enhancing collaboration between schools, parks, community centers and faith-based institutions.”

Underdeveloped conflict resolution skills lead to problems outside of the school environment, as well, which reinforces the need for programs like One Indy.

“Too often we are seeing acts of violence committed in our community as the result of simple arguments or disagreements,” said Director Riggs. “Violence is never the answer. We need to reach our youth early on to help them understand there are peaceful ways to resolve issues with others and teach them those life-changing skills.”

Focus area work progressing, promising

Shepherd Community Center develops comprehensive program to strengthen New York and Sherman area

When the DPS launched its focus area philosophy in the fall of 2014, it identified a need for long-term community-based anchors to nurture each of the six areas toward positive change. Shepherd Community Center was the first to step up and has since developed a comprehensive program designed to help those living in the New York and Sherman focus area.

Known as "The Shalom Project," the new program will engage and empower residents to bond together to reduce crime while simultaneously revitalizing the area. The program will be multi-faceted and will feature a variety of initiatives including those related to health and wellness, public safety, housing and education.

"Shepherd Community is enthusiastic about the prospects for real and sustained change in our neighborhood through The Shalom Project," said Jay Height, Executive Director of Shepherd Community Center. "This will take a strong commitment and great collaboration from within our community, but I am confident we can achieve our goals and transform this area into something special in Indianapolis."

The New York and Sherman area of Indianapolis was one of six areas identified by DPS as part of a review of 2013 and 2014 public safety and quality of life data. The review indicated a number of challenges facing the 1.75 square mile area including a homicide rate 215 percent greater and a non-fatal shooting rate 396 percent greater than the rest of the city, and vacant housing rate of more than 35 percent.

"The key to sustaining success in the focus areas is going to be an engaged community within each area," said Director Riggs. "Shepherd Community is proving once again to be a leader within Indianapolis, and we hope others around the city will follow their lead for the good of our neighbors and friends."

Shepherd is hoping to secure the necessary funding for The Shalom Project by May with implementation slated to begin this summer.

The Shalom Project is one of many ways DPS is working to connect community partners to new and existing resources to bring long-term positive change to the six areas, identified by intersections at West 16th Street and North Tibbs Avenue, West 29th Street and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, West 34th Street and North Illinois Street, East 38th Street and North Sherman Drive, East New York Street and North Sherman Drive, and East 42nd Street and North Post Road.

Every month we honor you and your DPS teammates for the great work you do – each and every day.

And, there's free pizza!



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IMPD paid tribute during Black History Month

As part of Black History Month, the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department celebrated past achievements of African-American officers. During the month of February, IMPD highlighted in display cases on the first floor of the City-County Building those achievements. The exhibit was organized by civilian employee Patrick Pearsey, and was sponsored by IMPD and the Indianapolis Police Foundation.

Chief Rick Hite unveiled the display at a ceremony Feb. 2, during which Cecelia Boler -- the great-granddaughter of IPD officer Carter Temple, Jr. (1876-1900) -- offered her reflections on the contributions made by her great-grandfather and the legacy he left behind.

The text of those remarks follows. Enjoy.

Good afternoon,

Chief Hite, thank you so much for this incredible honor and moving tribute. My family and I are so grateful to be here today. This is a day that we will cherish for years to come.

Mr. Pearsey, I will never forget the day that you contacted me on ancestry.com. I was so excited that someone was as interested in my family as I. Thank you for putting up with my countless emails, phone calls, and questions about everything. The research you have done on African Americans serving on the Indianapolis Police Department is so appreciated; I have thoroughly enjoyed reading about each and every man and woman who served on the force. Thank you!...for all that you have done to preserve the history of African Americans in this city.

My family has always been proud of the contributions and sacrifices made by my great-grandfather, Carter Temple Jr. How could we not be inspired by this man? He was born a slave in Logan County, Kentucky, and fought for the Union in the Civil War. Then, finding himself a free man, he set out for Indianapolis to start his new life.

My great-grandfather put his intelligence and skill to use by building homes and selling real-estate. He inspires us by having belonged to an organization such as the "Colored Odd Fellows", which promoted personal and social development of African Americans. Carter Temple Jr. raised a family, but sadly only one



IMPD paid tribute during Black History Month

of five children survived - my grandfather Carter F. P. Temple.

Carter Temple Jr. tried his hand at an acting career, but after one performance in a minstrel show he decided he wanted to do something else. That "something else" became a career as a police officer. He proceeded to spend twenty-four years of his life serving and protecting the citizens of Indianapolis. He was the patriarch of a large family of talented, intelligent, and remarkable people in their own right.

I imagine my great-grandfather had an extremely difficult life. He undoubtedly suffered a great deal through having been born into slavery. I am sure that even after the Civil War his life was still full of pain, humiliation, degradation, and unspeakable atrocities. Yet, his faith must have been truly unwavering. He had something inside of him that just wouldn't let him give up.

He accomplished so many things in his eighty-six years of life and he did a great majority of it in the City of Indianapolis.

I am so proud to live in a city where a story like this can take place. There are other cities in this country where my great-grandfather's story would not have come to light.

This is a very proud day for my family, for IMPD and the City of Indianapolis.

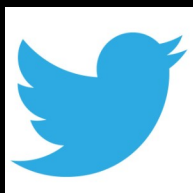
-- Cecelia Boler

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-- Cecelia Boler



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IFD pauses to honor 2014 exemplary work

After a year of moments filled with both hope and tragedy the Indianapolis Fire Department honored their own on Friday January 23 for exemplary performance during 2014.

Held at the Indiana Roof Ballroom, over 170 awards were given to IFD Firefighters, IMPD Officers and Citizens of Indianapolis.

Recipients were praised for their work during incidents that occurred in 2014. These included 9 Fire Rescues, 2 Dive Rescues, 3 Extrication Rescues, 2 Animal Rescues, 3 EMS Rescues and 2 Criminal Apprehensions.

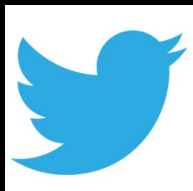


10 IFD Firefighters were recognized for their outstanding contributions in the form of community service. In addition to over 700 working fires in 2014, IFD firefighters responded to and mitigated incidents that reflected the power of teamwork, the importance of training and the ability to maintain composure under extreme stress.

One highlight of the evening, was having new IFD Firefighter Recruit Jordan McLinn on hand to present host Scott Sander his own fire coat and helmet as a thank you for his support to the IFD.



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IFD pauses to honor 2014 exemplary work

Citizens honored by IFD included Rick Benedict, Amber Hollingsworth, John Cocco and ACE the dog... that saved his 13 year old owner Nick Lamb.

IMPD Officers honored were William Sage, David Loyal, Frank Miller, Larry Wilson.

Chosen by their peers, the winners of the 2014 Peer Leadership are:

A Shift: Private Vicki Morr
B Shift: Captain Barry Riddle
C Shift: Lieutenant Del Brinson

IFD Firefighter Battalion Chief David Owens was given the prestigious Fire Department Instructors Conference (FDIC) Service Award, presented by the Editor of Fire Engineering Magazine/FDIC International/PennWell Fire Group, retired Chief Robert Halton.

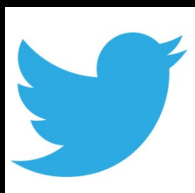


Nationally, IFD has been widely praised for its ability to safely work as a team while maintaining the integrity and objectives of an incident command system that often includes multiple agencies and disciplines. 2014 was a reflection of both the leadership provided by the IFD command staff and to the firefighters on the street who commit to serve 24/7.



IFD is committed to providing the most comprehensive service to the citizens we serve. Through our external efforts with Education, Prevention and Victim's Assistance we regard the safety of the residents of Indianapolis our highest priority. Internally, we maintain that firefighter life safety, training, continued health and education is our #1 responsibility to ensure that "everyone goes home safe." However, we recognize that we cannot accomplish our individual mission without the great partnerships we are fortunate to have.

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Franklin University helping DPS employees reach new heights

Employees within the Department of Public Safety (DPS) looking to achieve their educational goals have a partner in Franklin University and its Indianapolis campus.



In 2014, Franklin University of Ohio announced the expansion of its original Education Partnership with the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) to include DPS employees and their spouses, as well as IMPD Leadership Academy students and alumni.

Franklin originally entered into an Educational Partnership with IMPD in July 2013. Working with members of IMPD who have enrolled in Franklin's master's degree programs, as well as through sponsorships of events such as the IMPD Leadership Academy Alumni Association (IMPDLAAA), Franklin

developed a relationship with and appreciation for the expertise that currently exists within IMPD.

Through the expanded partnership Franklin is helping the leadership of DPS provide access to cost effective, high quality degree pathways for employees and spouses of DPS who want to further their education and professional development goals.

"The Department of Public Safety is very appreciative of our partnership with Franklin University," said Public Safety Director Troy Riggs. "This allows our employees and their spouses the opportunity to further develop as professionals, which benefits the Indianapolis citizens they serve today and also helps them as they take their careers into the future."

Marnie Glanner of Franklin University is proud to include DPS in the school's list of companies and organizations involved in Franklin's partnership program.

"By taking advantage of this opportunity to partner with Franklin, the leadership of DPS demonstrated a commitment to educational development and well-being," said Glanner. "The Indianapolis Department of Public Safety is dedicated to upholding the highest professional standards while serving the community."

This initiative is recognized as an opportunity for employers dedicated to the professional development of their employees. The program empowers employers to provide a high-quality, high-value education option to their employees at no cost to the organization while building employee confidence, morale, and employee credentials.

For more information, please call Roland Graham Jr. at (317) 429-3123 or e-mail him at Roland.Graham@franklin.edu.

Visit
www.franklin.edu
for more
information

FRANKLIN UNIVERSITY
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Thanking a most-special recruit for his service

Introducing new recruits to a division within the Department of Public Safety is always an exciting time.



But, 2015 will always stand out as the year that the Indianapolis Fire Department secured one of its most-special recruits ever in the form of five-year old Jordan McLinn.

After accepting his conditional offer of employment from IFD, Jordan, who has been diagnosed with Duchenne muscular dystrophy, hit the ground running. In addition to officially reporting for duty January 8 at IFD Station 13, Jordan joined the Division of Homeland Security at an Indianapolis Colts game and also made a special trip to the Indiana Statehouse to do some lobbying.

Thanks to all who helped make some of Jordan's dreams come true this year...but thanks go mostly to Jordan for helping all of us remember what really matters -- each and every day.



Excellence in Government Award Winners

DPS honored seven deserving employees for their hard work (including Mandy James from IEMS, who isn't pictured below) at the August "Excellence in Government" luncheon. Due to operator error by the human who edits this newsletter, their pictures weren't included in a 2014 issue (sorry about that!). They, and their guests, were treated to lunch, hosted by and sponsored by California Pizza Kitchen.



Andrew Bowes, IEMS



George Callahan, IFD



Lisa Lasek, IFD



Jacqueline Nowinski, ACC



Lisa Oberle, IFD



Brandi Taylor, IMPD

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<http://bit.ly/excellence-in-gov>

Excellence in Government Award Winners

DPS honored seven more deserving employees for their hard work (including IFD's Kristin Harrison, who isn't pictured below) at the January "Excellence in Government" luncheon. They, and their guests, were treated to lunch, hosted by and sponsored by California Pizza Kitchen.



Brian Bishop, IEMS



Cathy Hedges, IMPD



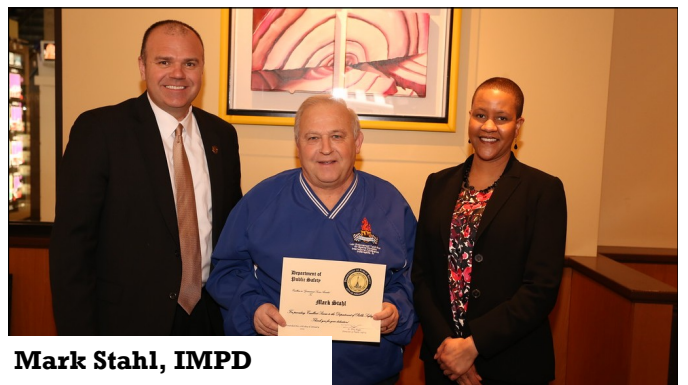
Michael Knapp, IMPD



Alicia Pope, IEMS



Daniel Rosenberg, IMPD



Mark Stahl, IMPD

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Director for a Day - Purposeful Design

The Department of Public Safety's "Director for a Day" program continues to be a big hit and the December outing was no exception. We were honored to host David Palmer and Andrew Gibson, both from Purposeful Design (www.pdindy.com) -- an organization making a big impact in the lives of men here in Indianapolis.



David Palmer, right, and Andrew Gibson, left), starting their day with Director Riggs. David founded Purposeful Design and Andrew, a former heroin addict, has rebuilt his life through the opportunity provided to him at Purposeful Design.

A trip to Survive Alive and IFD Station 7 is always a highlight for our VIPs during the day.



IMPD Assistant Chief James Waters and Director's Office Chief of Staff Brian Sanford also spent some time with David and Andrew.



Want to suggest a good Director for a Day?
Please e-mail us at: dps@indy.gov

Director for a Day - Jamal Smith, Dr. David Hampton

The Director for a Day program not only provides a great opportunity for key members of the Indianapolis community; it creates great opportunities for DPS, as well. Jamal Smith and Dr. David Hampton made the most of their day in February, and in return, shared great perspectives with us.

Jamal Smith, left, is the Executive Director of the Indiana Civil Rights Commission. Dr. David Hampton, right, is Senior Pastor at Light of the World Christian Church. Both men are very active as leaders in the Indianapolis community.



Dr. David Hampton, Deputy Director/ CFO Valerie Washington, Chief Hite and others share a laugh at the IMPD Training Academy.



Jamal Smith shared his thoughts on the importance of strong, positive relationships between police and the community with a group of IMPD recruits.



Want to suggest a good Director for a Day?
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MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

In Memory of Tim McCormick and Cody Medley

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

12 p.m.

Valle Vista Golf Club • Greenwood, IN

\$300/team

To register and for rules and information, contact Doug Lackey at douglas.lackey@indianapolisems.org or 317.498.4575.

Event organized by Doug Lackey and Bruce Tilson